

A BIRDING TELEGRAPH LINE.

Little News Messengers Who Fear Only the Sportsman's Idle Shot.

BY C. F. HOLDER

(Copyright, 1897, by S. S. McClure Company.)

"That's a curious place for a bird house."

The visitor at Santa Catalina to an old

fisherman, pointing to a small, unpainted

bird house that stood near the water.

"That's the telegraph office, ma'am," replied

the man.

"The telegraph office?" repeated the incredulous

stranger.

"Pigeon telegraph," continued the fisherman.

"You see this island is thirty miles

from land, and there isn't no telegraph line,

so they use pigeons to carry the mail and

messages."

The woman gazed at the old man in wonder,

and, evidently believing him the prince

of the Aztec tribe, moved on. The fisherman

told the truth, however, as, during

the summer months, the famous homing

pigeons which fly between Los Angeles and

Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, are busily

engaged, on an average three or four tele-

grams are sent daily during the height of

the summer season. It is an unique line,

and the only one in the world where a

direct and regular service is carried on.

Upon one occasion a stranger at the island

rushed into the office of the hotel and in-

quired if there was another boat to the

mainland that day. On being informed that

there was none he said he would give \$50

if he could send a telegram to Los Angeles,

and began to berate the island. The clerk

listened to his tale of woe and then told

him he could send a telegram for \$1.50 and

presently three pigeons were produced.

Orlando, Skip Jack and Flying Jim—all

champion flyers, which the clerk said would

carry the message to Los Angeles in five

minutes. The stranger was selected as the

Pacific and twenty of land, and deliver it in

an hour, perhaps, and an hour and a half an-

hour. The man doubted the statement, but

the telegram was sent and an answer re-

turned in less than three

hours.

It may be interesting to follow the ex-

periences of this trio of birds as nearly as

possible. "Orlando" was selected as the

message bearer, as he was a famous bird.

His master called him "Old Reliable," as he

had made the trip on several occasions in

forty-four minutes, thirty-three in five-

minutes and twenty in four. About ten

days before the trip, Orlando was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

attacked with the measles and was

kept in bed for a week. He was

following day "Orlando" has recovered from

his illness and is sent over to the island to a

box, to be ready for another telegraphic

message.

The finest stock in the world is necessary

for this pigeon service. Belgian visitors are

preferred, and much training is required be-

fore they can be depended upon. This con-

sists of repeated flights in short sections.

Thus they travel on the route from Los

Angeles to Santa Catalina in first taken a

mile from its coop and released; then two

miles, then it is given to the conductor of

a train, which carries it perhaps five miles

the first day, ten miles the second, in the

direction to San Pedro. There it is given to

the conductor of the steamer of the Willing-

ton Transportation company, who takes it a

few miles to sea, and the same training is

repeated as on the cars until the bird finally

makes the entire trip of fifty miles. Per-

haps too such complete lessons are neces-

sary for young birds, after which they are

presumably in good condition to be re-

leased to bring telegraph messages.

The service at the present time includes

telegrams, letters and the correspondence of

a daily paper. The price is \$1.50 and is

considered an expensive luxury, yet it is

said that a young man patronized it

several times a day for a week to com-

municate with his invalid wife. Visitors to

the island often send telegrams to their

relatives just to say that the message was

carried over the Pacific by a bird. This is

the only established bird line in the coun-

try, and so an experiment may be said to

be a perfect success.

Flying pigeons is a very old art, having

its origin in India, and from there intro-

duced into Italy, Modena especially being

famous for its flocks of pigeons and its

pigeon flies.

It is said as he was told.

As a Result the Boy Had a Joke on

His Teachers.

I listened myself a day or two ago to a

very good anecdote of a grammar school

boy.

Youngster whom you know, and whom for

the purpose of this communication I will

call Surrey, says a writer in the Boston

Transcript. The elements for understanding

what occurred are these: Surrey has a mar-

ried sister living in Buffalo. Surrey him-

self lives with his parents in one of the

outlying districts of Boston and at-

tends a grammar school there. Surrey has

been commended in the school, and con-

cluded by asking any one in whose family

there was a case of either disease to rise

and report to the school, and concluded by

asking any one in whose family there was

a case of either disease to rise and report

to the school, and concluded by asking any

one in whose family there was a case of

either disease to rise and report to the

school, and concluded by asking any one

in whose family there was a case of either

disease to rise and report to the school,

and concluded by asking any one in whose

family there was a case of either disease

to rise and report to the school, and con-

cluded by asking any one in whose family

there was a case of either disease to rise

and report to the school, and concluded by

asking any one in whose family there was

a case of either disease to rise and report

to the school, and concluded by asking any

one in whose family there was a case of

either disease to rise and report to the

school, and concluded by asking any one

in whose family there was a case of either

disease to rise and report to the school,

and concluded by asking any one in whose

family there was a case of either disease

to rise and report to the school, and con-

cluded by asking any one in whose family

there was a case of either disease to rise

and report to the school, and concluded by

lans. I do not like the Turks a bit. I

think they are horrid."

"Papa," asked Tommie, "is it cowardly to

strike something bigger than you that can't

defend itself?"

"It is, indeed," replied his father.

"Well, I don't know," reflected Tommie.

"I don't see how we could fight the gas

without striking a match."

"Willie!" shouted the irate father, "didn't

I warn you not to eat any more cucumbers?"

"I didn't eat no cucumbers. I'm to be

the championer in the circus what were

you to give in the circus?"

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Paris forest is \$22,000,000,000.

Our forests are worth \$500,000,000.

Germany has \$100 million worth of

England boasts a 500-acre orchard.

The new Chinese mill at Canton coined

more than 14,000,000 10-cent pieces last year.

Matches have not yet displaced the tinder

box in certain rural districts of Spain and

Italy.

It is said that if all the cotton raised in

Texas were made into one shirt the garment

would fit a man 20,000 miles long.

It has been ascertained that since electricity

was introduced for lighting in New York the

number of executions has increased nearly

200 per cent per annum.

Russian doctors are hereafter to wear as

a diploma a little cross, or badge, a silver

oval plate an inch and a half long by an inch

wide, on which is a design of two intertwined

serpents.

During the month of June there were 12,837

visitors to the top of Washington

mountain, of whom 10,130 made the ascent in the

elevator, and 2,707 by the stairway, making

1,409,822 persons who have visited the top

since the cable was opened to the public

October 3, 1883.

So far the 3,500,000 people of Texas have

enjoyed only three watermelons per capita, but

there are nine more per capita coming. Just

to think, grand old Texas produced

about 40,000,000 watermelons, weighing in the

aggregate only 399,000,000 pounds. Why, they

would be packed in solid form and would

make only about 2,000 trainloads.

Miss Phoebe McKay, who for seven years

has worked as a domestic in Flushing, L.

I. has unexpectedly become very wealthy

through the bequest of an uncle. The

uncle had been engaged in the South

African trade, but Miss McKay did not

know that he had amassed a great fortune

until after his death. Last week she received

a letter from the solicitors who are settling

up the affairs of her uncle's estate. The

letter directed her to go at once to Scot-

land, saying that the amount of her fortune

would be more than \$1,000,000. Miss McKay

has given up her place and will start for

Scotland in a few days. She says it is her

intention when she shall secure her money

to return to America and take up her resi-

dence in Flushing.

A few days ago Attorney E. W. Draffen of

Lawrenceburg, Ky., bought a pair of white

rabbits. One of them died, and the other

is now a strong attachment soon sprang up

between the other rabbit and a Jersey calf.

The two became constant companions, and

when the calf grew up the friendship was

not broken. The Jersey goes out in the

field to graze during the day and the rabbit

plays about the yard. In the evening, when

the Jersey comes up, the rabbit follows

the two fondle and caress each other in the

most affectionate manner.

A remarkable case of sleepwalking

occurred with S. G. Linn, a Pan Handle

agent at Philadelphia, Pa., on the 10th inst.

street car ride to New Philadelphia. Coming

back he fell asleep. At the destination the

conductor shook him, and he awoke, and in

a dazed way started toward the depot. He

had just come from. At 1 o'clock he ar-

rived at the power house, and the rain was

pouring down in torrents, but Linn was

still asleep. Purely from habit, strange to

say, a strong attachment soon sprang up

between the other rabbit and a Jersey calf.

The two became constant companions, and

Youse fellows wat is speakin' to de five-

cent Stoecker Clear don't need to let dat

tariff of Bill McKinley's bodder you

nun—far my dad he tole me terday dat

he was goin' to put de same kind of

good tobacco in dem Stoeckers as al-

ways, and dat de price wud be only a

nickle—dat's not sayin' dey ain't wort

more, cuse dey is—but my dad's so big-

<